

Aliens Helped to Escape From Canada by Winnipeg Men--Arrests to Come Soon

Farmer Living on Border is Held for Trial for His Part in Well Organized Scheme—Tickets Bought for Emerson, Man—Course From There to U.S. Has Been Traced

(Western Associated Press.)

WINNIPEG, Nov. 26.—Winnipeg is believed to be the western headquarters of an organization having for its object the spiriting of alien enemies across the American border. In that connection several citizens are under surveillance and as soon as the evidence warrants the move they will be placed under arrest.

Since the outbreak of the war it has come to the attention of the authorities that there was a large exodus of Austrians and Germans through Emerson. That in itself was not a matter for suspicion, but when all trace of the aliens was lost shortly after their arrival at the southern town, an investigation was commenced. It resulted in Otto Geller, a farmer of Ridgville, being placed under arrest. Geller claims to be a naturalized Canadian and if the charges lodged against him can be substantiated, he is liable to be tried for treason, a serious crime involving the extreme penalties.

How They Made Escape

It has developed that the aliens desiring to make their escape from the country bought local tickets for Emerson. From that town their course has been traced in every case eastward to Stuartburn and Ridgville. Geller lived at the latter settlement, and it is believed he gave the enemy shelter and under the cover of darkness spirited them across the line to the town of Orleans, in Minnesota. He was arrested yesterday morning and at present is detained at Fort Osborne barracks awaiting trial on the charge of aiding and abetting alien enemies to escape from Canada. It is said that Geller, forgetting or ignoring the Canadian nationality, has made himself offensive in the district in which he resided, behaving altogether in an intolerable manner. The Emerson police are collecting evidence, and when this is submitted to the proper authorities Geller will be placed on trial.

Twenty Arrested Yesterday

On Tuesday 20 Germans and Austrians were arrested while attempting to board the local train for Emerson.

son. There is little doubt that they were on their way to the rendezvous to cross the line in the usual manner. They are being detained as prisoners of war.

From information received it is believed that a wide-spread system is in operation in the western provinces furthering this treasonable work. The presence of a central committee in Winnipeg directing operations is suspected. It is believed that those at the head of the scheme receive a fee from every alien that they help to escape, and that they are using such men as Geller as willing tools.

The whole scheme has been laid bare before the authorities and steps are being taken to put an end to the traffic. Several parties in Winnipeg are being watched and are likely to be arrested shortly to stand trial, not only for violating the Canadian immigration laws, but those of the United States as well.

CHARGE AGAINST ALLEGED SPY HAS SIMMERED DOWN

Came to England to Sell Ger- man Secrets—Given Six Months

(Western Associated Press)

LONDON, Nov. 25.—The case of Horst Von Der Goitz, alias Bridgman Taylor, which for a time promised to parallel the case of Carl Hans Lody, who was executed as a German spy, simmered down in the Bow Street police court today when the prosecution elected to try the prisoner on the simple charge of failing to register as an alien enemy. Accordingly, this will need no court martial.

He swears that he was born in San Francisco, that he went to Germany when 12 years old, and left that country when he was 21. He had served in the Mexican army. In order to do this, he had to become a Mexican citizen, and he still claims Mexican nationality. The prisoner admitted that his parents were German.

Von Der Goitz admitted under cross-examination that he had told an attaché of the British foreign office that he could reveal the line of the proposed Espionage raids. "Then you came here to sell German secrets?" remarked the prosecutor. The prisoner admitted this was so. Still maintaining that he was not a German subject and under no obligations to register, Von Der Goitz heard the court impose a sentence of six months at hard labor, recommending that at the expiration of this term he be deported.